UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Division for Management
Human Resources Management Service

UNOV/INF.262
UNODC/INF.263
8 March 2018

Information circular

Austrian health insurance scheme

1. This is to inform all staff who are members of the Austrian social security scheme of the schedule of premiums and remuneration ceilings (*Höchstbeitragsgrundlage*) applicable as at 1 January 2018 (see annex). Following consultations with the relevant Austrian authorities and with other Vienna-based organizations, it was agreed to change the method of calculation for the remuneration ceilings, resulting in reduced premiums as from 1 January 2018. The changes will be implemented retroactively in the March 2018 payroll.

2. Staff members are reminded that, in line with the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the United Nations on Social Security, effective 1 November 2010, they are eligible for coverage in any of the branches of the Austrian social security scheme. The Agreement has been published on the Internet at www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/BNR/BNR_00245/index.shtml.

3. The four branches of the Austrian social security scheme are:

- Health insurance
- Accident insurance
- Unemployment insurance
- Pension insurance

4. Staff members have the right to join the health insurance scheme (Wiener Gebietskrankenkasse (WGKK)) and any of the other branches:

(a) Within three months of taking up their appointment; or

(b) Within three months after the completion of three years of continuous service.

5. Staff members also have the right to terminate their coverage in each of the selected branches:

(a) Within three months of becoming participants in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund;

(b) Before taking up an assignment to duty outside Austria for a period of more than three months;

(c) Within three months after the completion of three years of continuous service.

6. Election of coverage can be made by signing the enrolment form provided by the social security team, Human Resources Management Service (room D-0481/D-0482). Once a staff member has elected to take coverage in any of the branches available under the Austrian social security scheme, participation must continue throughout the entire period of employment with the United Nations Office at Vienna or the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, unless a written

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declaration of termination of coverage is made, within the deadlines stated in paragraph 5 above, to the social security office, Human Resources Management Service. In case of termination of the insurance under paragraph 5 (b) above, the former insurance may be resumed with the same scope of coverage within one month of completion of the assignment by signing the enrolment form provided by the social security office, Human Resources Management Service. Responsibility for making a written request for enrolment or termination of coverage within the above-stated deadlines rests with the staff member. Coverage is automatically cancelled upon separation from service.

7. The benefits of the Austrian health insurance scheme are described in information circular UNOV/INF.245-UNODC/INF.246 of 1 November 2010. As of 2013, the e-card fee is subject to review on an annual basis. The yearly fee for the e-card of spouses will no longer be charged. Information on other benefits available under the Austrian social security scheme can be obtained from the social security office, Human Resources Management Service.

8. The attached annex supersedes the annex to information circular UNOV/INF.261-UNODC/INF.262 of 10 January 2017.

Annex

Monthly premium schedule (as at 1 January 2018)

Premiums under the various branches of the Austrian social security scheme are expressed as a percentage of salary (pensionable remuneration rate), with a maximum remuneration ceiling (*Höchstbeitragsgrundlage*). The percentage and remuneration ceilings are subject to change without prior notice.

	Total premium (percentage)	*Monthly remuneration ceiling based on salary paid 12 times a year (euros)*	*Monthly cost to staff members (euros)*
Health insurance	7.65	5 130	198.53[a] (= 3.87%)
Accident insurance	1.3	5 130	66.69[a] (= 1.3%)
Austrian pension insurance	22.8	5 130	1 169.64[a] (= 22.8%)
Unemployment insurance	6.0	5 130	307.80[a] (= 6%)
Voluntary health insurance	–	–	418.68

[a] The staff member's share of the total premium calculated from the monthly remuneration ceiling.